

AMENDMENT

Please make the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, and 24. Please amend claims 2, 4-7, 10-11, 13-14, 16-17, 19-20, 22-23, and 25-27 as follows:

2. (AMENDED) The method of claim 4, wherein operating the field emission device in the pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr includes operating the field emission device in a pressure of approximately 10^{-8} Torr.

4. (AMENDED) A method of manufacturing a field emission device, the method comprising:

operating the field emission device in a pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr for at least approximately 15 minutes to remove at least a portion of materials from within said field emission device; and

sealing the field emission device.

5. (AMENDED) The method of claim 4, the method further including:
sealing the field emission device after the at least approximately 15 minutes.

6. (AMENDED) The method of claim 5, wherein sealing the field emission device after the at least approximately 15 minutes includes sealing the field emission device in a vacuum chamber.

7. (AMENDED) The method of claim 5, wherein sealing the field emission device after the at least approximately 15 minutes includes sealing the field emission device in atmospheric pressure.

10. (AMENDED) The method of claim 11, wherein operating the field emission device in the pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr includes operating the field emission device in a pressure of approximately 10^{-8} Torr.

11. (AMENDED) A method of manufacturing a field emission device, the method comprising:

- cleaning a base plate of the field emission device, the base plate having an opening formed therein;

- assembling the base plate with a face plate of the field emission device;

- sealing the assembled base plate and face plate of the field emission device; and

- operating the sealed field emission device in a pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr for at least approximately 15 minutes to remove at least a portion of outgassed materials through the opening before sealing off the field emission device completely.

13. (AMENDED) The method of claim 11, wherein sealing off the field emission device completely includes sealing the field emission device in a vacuum chamber.

14. (AMENDED) The method of claim 11, wherein sealing off the field emission device completely includes sealing the field emission device in atmospheric pressure.

16. (AMENDED) The device of claim 17, wherein operating the field emission device in the pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr includes operating the field emission device in a pressure of approximately 10^{-8} Torr.

17. (AMENDED) A field emission device formed by a method comprising:
operating the field emission device in a pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr for at least approximately 15 minutes to remove at least a portion of outgassed materials through a tube before pinching off the tube to seal the field emission device.

19. (AMENDED) The device of claim 17, wherein pinching off the tube to seal the field emission device after the at least approximately 15 minutes includes pinching off the tube in a vacuum chamber.

20. (AMENDED) The device of claim 17, wherein pinching off the tube to seal the field emission device after the at least approximately 15 minutes includes pinching off the tube in atmospheric pressure.

22. (AMENDED) The device of claim 23, wherein operating the field emission device in the pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr includes operating the field emission device in a pressure of approximately 10^{-8} Torr.

23. (AMENDED) A field emission device formed by a method comprising:
cleaning a base plate of the field emission device, the base plate having an opening for a tube;
assembling the base plate with a face plate of the field emission device;
sealing the assembled base plate and face plate of the field emission device; and
operating the sealed field emission device in a pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr for at least approximately 15 minutes to remove at least a portion of outgassed materials from within said field emission device.
25. (AMENDED) The device of claim 23, the method further including pinching off the tube to seal off the field emission device completely after the at least approximately 15 minutes.
26. (AMENDED) The device of claim 25, wherein pinching off the tube to seal off the field emission device completely after the at least approximately 15 minutes includes pinching off the tube in a vacuum chamber.
27. (AMENDED) The device of claim 25, wherein pinching off the tube to seal off the field emission device completely after the at least approximately 15 minutes includes pinching off the tube in atmospheric pressure.

Please add new claims 28-29, as follows:

28. (NEW) The method of claim 4, wherein operating the sealed field emission device in a pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr for at least approximately 15 minutes includes operating the sealed field emission device in a pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr for approximately 15 to approximately 30 minutes.

29. (NEW) The method of claim 4, wherein operating the sealed field emission device in a pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr for at least approximately 15 minutes includes operating the sealed field emission device in a pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr for approximately 20 minutes.

30. (NEW) The method of claim 11, wherein operating the sealed field emission device in a pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr for at least approximately 15 minutes includes operating the sealed field emission device in a pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr for approximately 15 to approximately 30 minutes.

31. (NEW) The method of claim 11, wherein operating the sealed field emission device in a pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr for at least approximately 15 minutes includes operating the sealed field emission device in a pressure of at most about 10^{-8} Torr for approximately 20 minutes.